

ITALY TO FIGHT
IF PORTE FAILS
TO FREE BRITON

Cabinet Demands Speedy
Reparation for Violation
of Hodeidah Consulate.
Must Release Official.

Trouble With Austria Also Pre-
saged in Occupation of Avlona.
German Troops Patrol Border
in the Trentino.

ROME, Dec. 31.
Italy will be plunged into the European
war within a few days, it is believed in
many quarters here today, following the
ultimatum issued yesterday to Turkey
demanding the release within two days
of the British Consul seized at Hodeidah.
Not only with Turkey are Italian relations
strained.

Austria is aroused by the Italian oc-
cupation of Avlona, and Germany has
sent a detachment of troops into the
Trentino, on the Austro-Italian frontier.
Seizure of the missionary school at
Alpejo, in Asia Minor, by the Turks also
has angered Italy.

Should Italy enter the war it is be-
lieved it will be against the whole Teuton
alliance.

However, at the Cabinet meeting to-
day, called to discuss the Turkish situa-
tion, opinions were expressed by cer-
tain members that Turkey, facing the
issue squarely, would make the required
amends at once.

The Government's patience is exhausted,
and Turkey has been peremptorily not-
ified that the British consul at Hodeidah
must be released and the gentlemen who
broke into the Italian Consulate must be
punished.

Turkey has been warned that no excuse
for further delay will be accepted and a
satisfactory reply is demanded within two
days.

Italy's momentous move in occupying
Avlona and the surrounding hill country
in Albania has aroused intense irrita-
tion in Austria-Hungary. A correspond-
ent, telegraphing from the frontier, says
the Germans have intervened in Vienna
in an effort to force Austria-Italian
friction at this delicate juncture.

Count Berchtold had a long conference
with Emperor Francis Joseph on the
question. Upon returning to the Foreign
Office he sent an order to the Italian Am-
bassador, who, it is reported, was re-
quested to procure from Rome a state-
ment of Italy's declaration last October
that the latest move was merely a pre-
liminary measure for the time being applied
in virtue of the decisions of the London con-
ference.

Blood Transfusion Saves Singer
NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Following an
operation in which blood transfusion was
involved at the Roosevelt Hospital last
night, Miss Gertrude Reiche, formerly
leading contralto at the Manhattan
Opera House, is out of danger and resting
easy.



THE WEATHER
CLOUDY
If the year is new tomorrow
the weather today is not. Which is all the
consequence necessary. And speaking of the
new year with inspiring originality on
December 31—let's be serious for once.
You remember quite well, don't you, that
peculiar trend of thought your mind fol-
lows on your own birthday occasions, be it
at the age of 7 or 70? They—the
thoughts—are quite indescribable. If you
don't know what is meant, your case is
more or less hopeless. Well, tonight
comes the birthday of a world—the same
sort of birthday as your own, only related
to the billion and half power, and oc-
curring again after millions and millions
of times. Millions of times for a billion
and a half like us. Think about it.

FORECAST
For Philadelphia and vicinity—
Generally cloudy with no change in
temperature today. Colder tonight
and tomorrow.
For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia
8 A. M.
Barometer..... 30.23
Thermometer..... 32.0
Wind..... North, 10 miles
Humidity..... 75
Precipitation last 24 hours..... None
Direction of wind..... North
Minimum temperature..... 28
Maximum temperature..... 35

Almanac of the Day
Sun rises..... 7:52 a. m.
Sun sets..... 5:02 p. m.
Moon rises..... 1:25 a. m.
Moon sets..... 4:07 p. m.

Lamps to be Lighted
Auto and other vehicles..... 5:00 p. m.

The Tides
PORT RICHMOND.
Low water..... 8:48 a. m.
High water..... 1:25 p. m.
Low water..... 4:02 p. m.
High water..... 9:47 p. m.

CHERRY HURST WHARF.
Low water..... 8:57 a. m.
High water..... 1:34 p. m.
Low water..... 4:11 p. m.
High water..... 9:56 p. m.

BRIDGEWATER.
Low water..... 1:00 p. m.
High water..... 6:02 p. m.
Low water..... 8:59 p. m.
High water..... 1:50 a. m.

BEATING TODAY
There is skating today on Con-
course Lake in Fairmount Park.

MAYOR HOPES FOR PEACE
IN NEW YEAR'S GREETING

Mayor Blankenburg today ad-
dressed the following New Year
message to the citizens of Philadel-
phia:
"A happy and prosperous New
Year to all our people!
"May the coming year bring
blessings and cheer to all homes that
have been afflicted by business de-
pression and by private sorrow, and
may we all be permitted to share in
the bounty given our whole coun-
try in the abundance of our harvest.
"May peace be concluded at an
early date between the warring peo-
ples of Europe and the brotherhood
of man be permanently renewed and
forever established among all the
children of God."

ENGLAND DEVISES
"WATERTIGHT" PACT
FOR NEUTRAL SHIPS

Reply to America's Protest
Against Ship Seizures Re-
ported Framed—Pledge of
Nations to Be Accepted.

BRITAIN'S ANSWER
HOURLY EXPECTED

LONDON, Dec. 31.—American
Ambassador W. H. Page visited the
Foreign Office this afternoon and
held a conference with Sir Edward
Grey, the British Foreign Secre-
tary, relative to President Wilson's
note protesting against interference
with American shipping on the high
seas by British warships.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Secre-
tary of State Bryan, after receiving
a number of cable dispatches re-
ceived today, announced that this
Government hourly expected an an-
swer from Great Britain to the pro-
test against the detention and
search of American ships. The Secre-
tary declared the text of the pro-
test would then be made public.

LONDON, Dec. 31.
The feeling that there will be a speedy
and amicable settlement of President Wil-
son's protest against British interference
with American shipping on the high seas
was strong here today. There was an-
other meeting of the British Cabinet, at
which Sir Edward Grey, the British For-
eign Minister, presided, and afterward
it was reported that the Foreign Office
was now in a position to draft the out-
line of England's reply to the American
Government's note. The formal reply
probably will be delivered early next week
through Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British
Ambassador at Washington.

The solution probably will be this:
The British Government will make
arrangements with neutral countries
through which American goods might
pass to Great Britain's enemies,
which will make those countries "wa-
tertight" in so far as the possibi-
lity of export therefrom of contra-
band is concerned. By this it is
meant that the neutral governments
of such countries as Italy, Holland
and Denmark will be compelled to
prohibit the passage of goods into
Germany and Austria. When this
"watertight" arrangement is made
England will be able to relax the
rigors of searching American and
other ships, which will obviate the
long delays and inconvenience of
which President Wilson complained.

British newspapers continued today to
discuss the American note at length. The
Standard in its leading editorial warned
the country that the American protest
was a serious one and should not be
treated lightly. The Standard goes
on to say that the sentiment in the United
States in favor of the Allies is less pro-
nounced than it was three months ago
and that it is yielding in favor of Ger-
many as the underdog in the fight against
great odds.

"Therefore," the paper says, "if any
solution is possible the United States
should be met half way."
The Morning Post contends that Ameri-
can copper exporters have by no means
been ruined, declaring that in September
last, October, 1913, they sold 10,000,000
pounds of copper to Italy, Holland, Nor-

Conclusion on Page Six

SENATE RETAINS LITERACY
TEST; VETO IS EXPECTED

Immigration Bill Will Go to Wilson
With Provision He Opposes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The Literacy
test was retained in the Immigration bill
by a vote of 47 to 12 in the Senate this
afternoon. Senator Martine moved to
strike out the literacy test.

This vote indicated that the immigra-
tion bill containing the literacy test
would be put squarely up to the Presi-
dent, who has openly asserted his oppo-
sition to it and is expected to veto the
bill.

ARIZONA DRY AT 12 P. M., BUT
Saloonkeepers Will Stop Their Clocks
at Midnight.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 31.—Saloonkeep-
ers will stop their clocks at midnight
when the State is supposed to go "dry"
under the prohibition law of last Novem-
ber.

Officials, it was said, would not inter-
fere if the clocks were started again by
daylight. It will be "sum" New Year's
if plans to clean up all the liquor in
Arizona before sunup go through.

A number of saloonkeepers in towns
along the border plan to remove their
places of business across the line into
Mexico.

NORWOOD STATION BOBBED
The Norwood station of the Maryland
and Delaware Railroad was visited by
thieves early this morning. The ticket
office was broken into and a small amount
of money stolen. A slot telephone ma-
chine was broken and rifled of its contents
and a number of express packages were
stolen.

RUINS OF FIRE THAT THREATENED ALL PLEASANTVILLE



This photograph shows the blazing wreck of a three-story building in Pleasantville, N. J., from which State Senator Bertram E. Whitman and wife barely escaped with their lives. The town's fire fighters were forced to call on Atlantic City for help in subduing the flames.

NEW YORK YANKEES
FINALLY SOLD TO
COLONEL RUPPERT

President Ban Johnson An-
nounces Deal is Put
Through, But Purchase
Price is Kept Secret.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The New York
Yankees were finally sold this afternoon.
President Ban Johnson, of the American
League, got the deal put through after a
day of bickering. The new owners are
Col. Jacob Ruppert, Jr., and Capt. T. L.
Houston, both of New York. The purchase
price was kept private, but was estimated
at \$500,000.

In announcing consummation of the deal
which has been hanging fire for weeks,
President Johnson stated that several
players were also considered in the trans-
fer.

"Wild Bill" Donovan was named man-
ager. At present Donovan is in Philadel-
phia.

The sale was concluded today after an
all-day conference by Johnson, Farrell
Devery and Houston. The deal hung fire
for nearly a month.

Immediately after Johnson made official
announcement of the sale Ruppert, the
new owner, said, "I will act as presi-
dent of the club and Captain Houston will
be secretary and treasurer."

Johnson refused answers to questions
as to the names of the five players who
are to be turned over to the Yankees.
Ruppert, at the outset of the negotia-
tions, stated that the Yankees he was to
be given five good players and a first-class
manager.

One of the most surprising features of
the entire Yankee deal was the hand Ban
Johnson played in the matter. He had
practically engineered the deal from be-
ginning to end. He has stated that the
reason why he dipped into matters which
are supposed to be the province of the
Yankee leader, although he had a con-
tract to finish the season.

However, the owners allowed Chance to
abrogate the contract and they paid him
his full year's salary. After Chance left
the Yankees, Roger Peckinpaugh, the
shortstop, was made temporary manager.
The team finished the season with
"Peck" at the helm.

From the time Chance resigned until
the present, rumors that a sale would be
made have been current. At the recent
meeting of the National League and
National Commission, held in New York,
an announcement was made by Ban
Johnson that the Yankees would be sold
and that Colonel Ruppert and Houston
would be the new owners. It is under-
stood that the new owners have been
holding out to last the purchase price
lowered from \$500,000 to \$425,000.

When the deal was first mentioned a
story was printed to the effect that Ruppert
would not purchase unless John
McGraw were made manager. Since then
nearly every man in baseball has been
mentioned among the probable man-
agers. Connie Mack was not only men-
tioned as a possibility for the managerial
position, but for a time it was believed
by many that he would purchase the club.

The Yankees under the new ownership
intend to build a new stadium capable
of seating about 40,000 spectators.

BRUMBAUGH TO STUDY
NEEDS OF ALL CLASSES

Governor-elect Will Tour State in In-
terest of Citizens.

Governor-elect Brumbaugh will intro-
duce an innovation during his adminis-
tration legislation. He said today he
intended to travel extensively through-
out the State during his term as Governor,
so that he could meet citizens in the country
districts and talk over with them all
legislation affecting them.

In regard to city legislation, he said, all
measures affecting cities, especially Phila-
delphia and Pittsburgh, would have his
careful personal supervision.

The Governor-elect returned today from
Pittsburgh. He refused to discuss his
Cabinet appointments or the Speakership,
other than to say when he has decided
upon his appointments he will announce them.

"No measure should be considered by
the Legislature unless there is a definite
understanding of the problem that con-
fronts it," he said. "Bills should be
carefully drawn and carefully considered
before they are passed. When 99 bills on
the same subject are introduced, the
problem that the measures try to solve
becomes clouded and there is slight
chance of good being accomplished. This
should never occur. If bills are carefully
drawn they can be conscientiously con-
sidered."

JERSEY SENATOR AND WIFE
OVERCOME AT BLAZE

Rescued From Apartments in Fire at
Pleasantville.

PLEASANTVILLE, N. J., Dec. 31.—Two
persons narrowly escaped being burned
to death in a fire that swept through
the three-story building at Washington
and Main streets here today, entailing
a loss of between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

Another fire at the same time at North-
ampton near here, destroyed the home of
William Trees, and one engine company
was sent to help the firemen there.

An automobile engine company from
Atlantic City responded to a call for
help sent out by the local department at
2 o'clock this morning, two hours after
the blaze started. At that time the flames
were threatening the entire business sec-
tion of the town. Firemen did not get
the blaze under control until dawn.

State Senator Bertram E. Whitman and
Mrs. Whitman occupy apartments in the
second floor of the building. Both were
overcome and were carried out of the
building unconscious.

CORONER'S JURY CENSURES
PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL

Verdict Attributes Child's Death to
Careless Treatment.

Censure was directed against the Phila-
delphia General Hospital today by the
Coroner's jury in the case of Clara Sal-
berg, 19 years old, who died at the hos-
pital on December 24 from acute received
on Christmas Day when bathed by Beat-
rice Gilbert, an imbecile patient.

According to the physicians at the Phila-
delphia General Hospital, the child died
from pneumonia.

Coroner Knight, in addressing the jury,
said the hospital should certainly be cen-
sured for permitting the bathing of a
child inmate by another patient who was
irresponsible.

Beatrice Gilbert was called to testify,
but her replies were so incoherent she
was excused.

Serious disagreement between Dr. Ed-
win Wharton Storck, who was in charge
of the dead child at the hospital after
the accident, and Dr. W. P. Wadsworth,
the Coroner's physician, was brought out
when the former testified that the child
did not die as a result of shock sustained
in the accident, while the latter main-
tained that she did.

Mrs. Ida Denny, of 329 South 6th street,
a sister of the dead child, testified that
when she arrived at the hospital after
the accident, she was told that the child
refused all information on the accident and
was treated with absolute discourtesy.

CLOUDY NEW YEAR'S DAY
Weather Man Also Sees Possible
Snow Flurries Today.

Cold, cloudy weather will mark the
advent of the new year tomorrow, ac-
cording to the forecast of the local
weather bureau. Temperatures just be-
low the freezing point have made the ice
on various Fairmount Park lakes ideal
for skating and there should be plenty
of the sport for the first day of the new
year.

There is a possibility of light snow
flurries this afternoon, according to
Weather Forecast Bureau, but not enough
to last, so the merrymakers need not worry
about the footing for the parade, as
Broad street is now clear of ice and snow.

Police Await Orders on Auto Tags

Automobile owners who have not yet
obtained their 1915 license tags will not
be molested after midnight to night until
further notice to the police from Super-
intendent Robinson. The Superintendent
issued orders to this effect because of the
failure of the State Highway Commis-
sioner to notify the police department
whether or not all the 1915 automobile
tags already have been distributed.

Kaiser Greeted the President

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—Kaiser Wilhelm to-
day sent New Year's greeting from his
main headquarters to President Woodrow
Wilson. The Kaiser, in his message,
wished for Mr. Wilson and for the United
States a happy and prosperous new year.

House Passes Postal Appropriation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Carrying ap-
proximately \$20,000,000, the Postal ap-
propriation bill was passed by the House
this afternoon.

"Monkey Business"

In Congress and what it all means
is explained in an entertaining and
satirical article to be printed on the
editorial page of tomorrow's
EVENING LEDGER

This article is from the pen of a
member of Congress, who is also a
writer of wide repute.

Such long established institutions
as the Mace, dating back a thousand
years, the formalities of the message
and the transmission of information to
the President are described.

Order the Evening Ledger early
from your newsdealer.

POLICE MAGISTRATE
SCANDAL MAY BE
TAKEN TO COURT

District Attorney to Probe
Renshaw's Charge That
Stevenson Frees Prisoners
Committed at City Hall.

Criminal prosecution may follow in-
vestigations brought about by charges
made today against Magistrate Maxwell
Stevenson, Jr., accused of releasing pris-
oners who had been committed to prison
by Magistrate Renshaw, presiding at
Central Police Court. This was the
statement made today by District At-
torney Rotan, when his attention was
called to the charges made against
Magistrate Stevenson by Magistrate Ren-
shaw. Renshaw accused Stevenson of
having released hundreds of disorderly
characters after they had been com-
mitted to jail, and charged that the re-
leased were arranged through collusion
with Henry M. Stevenson, his brother,
an attorney with offices in the Land
Title Building.

Judge Stanke will be asked to review
the cases of several women who were
released on Stevenson's order after they
had been committed by Magistrate Ren-
shaw. The investigation will be held in
January, according to District Attorney
Rotan.

RELEASE FOLLOWS COMMITMENT.
That hundreds of notorious pickpockets
arrested by City Hall detectives early in
December were released by Magistrate
Stevenson in time to work the Christmas
shoppers was one of the charges brought
against him by Magistrate Renshaw. All
the more serious Magistrate court cases
are brought before him at City Hall. But
the other Magistrates, unable to mete
out their own brand of justice because of
this rule, have been discharging pris-
oners committed by Renshaw as soon as
copies of the charges were presented to
them, it is charged. In this way the
police have arrested time after time the
same persons accused of minor crimes.
That Magistrate Stevenson was acting
illegally in releasing the prisoners was
the argument of Mr. Rotan this morning.

Mr. Rotan declared that the matter
would be brought into court and the
Magistrate's powers established beyond
doubt.

The practice of Magistrates releasing
prisoners who have been held by other
Magistrates is illegal and wrong, in my
opinion," said Mr. Rotan. "Such
practices should immediately be discon-
tinued."

Two fell in the suburb of Rosendael and
on the jute factory districts of Boudel-
kerke. Furnes also suffered many
wounded. There the official return of
casualties was 4 o'clock this afternoon was
11 killed and 52 wounded. One child had
an arm blown off, while another, with an
aged woman, was killed outright, being
dreadfully disfigured.

The bombs were thrown with shrapnel,
which struck the walls and buildings. A
fifth German aeroplane remained as
sentry outside the town, holding itself in
readiness to attack any of the Allies'
aeroplanes.

The town was in a state of much ex-
citement. Buildings and windows were
smashed in all directions. The first bomb
fell on the fortifications. Two more fell
near the railway station, another in the
Rue Camartin, another in the kitchen of
the military hospital, another near the
town hall, others in the Rue Pierre and
Neupont and the last near the arsenal.

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OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH
From the sea as far as the Alps
the day has been rather calm, with the
exception of a few artillery duels at
some points.

In Champagne, to the west of La
Ferme d'Alger (to the north of Sil-
lery, on the sector of Rheims), the
enemy during the night had blown up
two of our trenches and afterward
made an attack against them, which
was repulsed.

To the north of Meunil-les-Hurlus we
have taken the trenches of the second
line of defense of the enemy. In the
same region, to the north of La Ferme
d'Beausejour, we also captured some
trenches. The enemy made a counter
attack, but it was repulsed, and we
ourselves took the offensive in our
turn, winning some ground.

In the same region, and more to the
east, the German forces which were
advancing and destroyed part of our
trenches were caught between the fire of our
artillery and rolled back.

In the Argonne, near Fontaine Ma-
dame, we blew up a mine and occupied
the excavation, at the same time making
slight progress.

Between the Meuse and Moselle, in
the region of the forest of Mortmart, 150
metres more or less of German
trenches have fallen into our hands.

In Upper Alsace our troops have en-
tered the town of Steinbach and captured
one-half of it after a terrible
house-to-house combat.

RUSSIAN
Along the whole front of the armies
operating on the left bank of the Vistula
there has been a lull except in the
region of Bollnow, Inowola and
south of Malagaosz, where fierce
fighting persists.

Near Inowola our troops took pos-
session of German trenches south of
Poznań, which they entered and en-
gaged in determined fighting.

In West Galicia our troops are ad-
vancing victoriously. East of Zak-
liczyn we stormed several fortified
works of the enemy.

Southwest of Dubu, our troops dis-
lodged the Austrians from positions
which they had strongly organized.
They fled in a panic.

GERMAN
In the Western theatre of war it was
generally quiet on the coast yesterday.
The enemy directed his fire upon
Wivandae and destroyed part of the
houses without causing any military
damage.

An entire French company was an-
nihilated when we saw up the en-
emy's trenches near La Ferme d'Alger
and Auberville, southeast of Rheims. Strong
French attacks north of Chalons-sur-
Marne were everywhere repulsed.